

Guard Apprenticeship Program Initiative (GAPI)

Table of Contents

[Summary](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Links](#)

[References](#)

[Points of Contact](#)

Summary

The Guard Apprenticeship Program Initiative (GAPI) is a National Guard program that provides opportunities for Army National Guard (ARNG) and Reserve Component (RC) Soldiers to attain national occupational skill certification through civilian job apprenticeships. GAPI capitalizes on a Soldier's Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) skills to achieve national certification and draw a civilian income while simultaneously allowing the Soldier to receive GI Bill benefits.

Military skills that are registered apprenticeship occupations include mechanics, medical technicians, therapists, truck drivers, construction engineers, website developers, law enforcement/military police officers, culinary artists/cooks and many more. An apprenticeship combines classroom studies with on-the-job training supervised by a trade professional or supervisor. Like a college education, apprenticeship training takes one to five years to complete or 2,000 documented work hours to become fully qualified in the occupation or trade. Completion of an apprenticeship results in nationally recognized certification of apprenticeship in a specific skill.

The program prepares Soldiers for a potential lifelong career and reduces employer recruiting and training costs. GAPI also contributes to the quality of ARNG Soldiers by educating military personnel in order to develop a more mission-capable force.

[Back to top](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is GAPI?

- A. To help Soldiers improve their job skills and establish a lifetime career, the Army National Guard has established the GAPI in cooperation with the Department of Labor (DOL) and with Veterans Administration (VA) offices. GAPI enables Soldiers to earn wages while they learn a skilled profession in a specific field.

GAPI is an "earn while you learn" experience whereby Soldiers learn new concepts and skills and also obtain national certification in one of over 100 trades while earning wages. These trades are mapped to over 200 military occupational specialties (MOSs) and eligible Soldiers receive VA educational benefits while they pursue an apprenticeship program. The apprenticeship combines an educational

curriculum with on-the-job training supervised by a trade professional or supervisor. Apprenticeship training takes one to five years to complete or 2,000 documented work hours to become fully qualified in an occupation or trade.

Q. What has the Army Guard GAPI program achieved?

- A. The GAPI program has been facilitating the accreditation of military training with the requirements set by the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The GAPI program has helped to address Soldier employment needs as Soldiers learn a new trade or earn certification in a field where the Soldier frequently has a combination of military or civilian on-the-job or “at home” experience but lacks the official certification. In other cases, the Soldier selects a trade of interest and starts the program with a “Trade” 101 fundamental curriculum and completes the program as a certified professional.

Q. What continued efforts does the Army Guard have planned for the future?

- A. The GAPI program has established a network of contractors who provide administrative support primarily in relation to the efforts associated with the DOL and the National Guard Bureau Employment Outreach Branch. Contractors will increasingly provide more support to develop and sustain GAPI within the respective commands from the 54 States and Territories. This support leverages and builds synergies with civilian employers and labor unions while developing specific apprenticeship opportunities for Soldiers especially with agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security.

Q. Why is this important to the Army and the Army Guard?

- A. This program is essential to the sustainability of the ARNG and helps volunteer Soldiers become well-trained professionals. The GAPI program provides Soldiers from the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve an opportunity to gain civilian employment and certification while continuing to serve in the all-volunteer force or while transitioning back to the civilian workforce.

[Back to top](#)

Links

- [Army.Mil Today's Focus GAPI Page](#)
This comprehensive website provides information, news, and other content about the GAPI.
- [National Guard Education GAPI](#)
This comprehensive National Guard Education website provides information, news, and other content about the GAPI and other employment resources.

[Back to top](#)

References

Regulations

- [AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System \(ACES\)](#)

Documents and Forms

- [National Guard Education, Incentives and Employment: Employment Sell Sheet](#)

Point of Contact

- [ARNG Education Support Center](#)
1-866-628-5999
BOX 46 Camp J.T. Robinson
North Little Rock, AR 72199-9600
- [Click here to access your State Education Office contact information](#)

[Back to top](#)

18 MAR 11